



MAXIMS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
VOLUME E1, ISSUE 2

Timeless Truths for Everyday Living





Timeless Truths for Everyday Living

Volume E1, Issue 2

*Read all the maxims in this handout.
Which ones speak to you?*

E1.2.1 ***Fall seven times, stand up eight.***

– Japanese proverb

E1.2.2 **Character is doing the right thing even when it costs more than you want to pay.**

– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, radio commentator, and founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)

E1.2.3 ***Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.***

– The Dalai Lama, Tibetan religious leader (b. 1935)

E1.2.4 **One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn't pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself.**

– Lucille Ball, American actress (1911-1989)

E1.2.5 ***What is wrong today won't be right tomorrow.***

– Dutch proverb

E1.2.6 **Trust yourself. Think for yourself. Act for yourself. Speak for yourself. Be yourself.**

– Marva Collins, African-American educator (b. 1936)

E1.2.7 ***The best advice is a good example.***

– adapted from Ossie Davis, African-American actor, film director, and activist (1917-2005)

E1.2.8 **The here and now is all we have, and if we play it right it's all we'll need.**

– Ann Richards, former governor of Texas (b. 1933)

E1.2.9 ***Quitters never win, and winners never quit.***

– Unknown

E1.2.10 **It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but a great deal more to stand up to your friends.**

– Professor Dumbledore, in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

E1.2.11 ***The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.***

– American proverb



E1.2.12 **Success is 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration.**

– Thomas Edison, American inventor (1847-1931)

E1.2.13 ***You have brains in your head.***

You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself

Any direction you choose.

– Dr. Seuss, pen name of Theodor Seuss Geisel, American author and illustrator of children's books (1904-1991) (from *Oh! The Places You'll Go!*)

E1.2.14 **Two wrongs don't make a right.**

– English proverb

E1.2.15 ***Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate.***

Hate leads to suffering.

– Yoda, in *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*

E1.2.16 **Never look down on people unless you're helping them up.***

– Jesse Jackson, African-American political activist and preacher (b. 1941)

E1.2.17 ***It's not enough to know how to ride — one must also know how to fall.***

– Mexican proverb

E1.2.18 **The secret of success is not avoiding mistakes but learning from them.**

– Michael Josephson, American ethicist, author, radio commentator, and founder of CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Josephson Institute (b. 1942)

E1.2.19 ***If we want a love message to be heard, it has got to be sent out. To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting oil in it.***

– Mother Teresa, Albanian-born Indian missionary nun, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (1910-1997)

E1.2.20 **Harry: The Sorting Hat only put me in Gryffindor because I asked not to go in Slytherin.**

Professor Dumbledore: Exactly. It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.

– *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

E1.2.21 ***Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands.***

– Anne Frank, Jewish girl who kept a diary while hiding from the Nazis during World War II (1929-1945)

E1.2.22 **An important part of who you are is what you want to be.**

– Unknown

E1.2.23 ***Knowledge itself is power.***

– Francis Bacon, English statesman, writer, and philosopher of science (1561-1626)

E1.2.24 ***Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.***

– Dr. Seuss, pen name of Theodor Seuss Geisel, American author and illustrator of children's books (1904-1991) (from *The Lorax*)

E1.2.25 ***You find what you look for: good or evil, problems or solutions.***

– Sir John Templeton, American-born British financier (b. 1912)

E1.2.26

Kind hearts are the gardens,
Kind thoughts are the roots,
Kind words are the flowers,
Kind deeds are the fruits.
Take care of your garden
And keep out the weeds,
Fill it with sunshine,
Kind words and kind deeds.

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet (1807-1882)

E1.2.27 ***Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing oneself.****

– Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist (1828-1910)

E1.2.28 ***With great power comes great responsibility.***

– Uncle Ben to Peter Parker, in *Spider-Man*

E1.2.29 ***One can never know enough. The unknown and its call lie even in what we know.***

– Eduardo Chillida, Spanish sculptor (1924-2002)

E1.2.30 ***When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree.***

– Vietnamese proverb

* We have modified this maxim slightly so that it applies to boys and girls.

GLOSSARY

avoiding – staying away from

deeds – actions

great deal – a lot

humanity – people

inspiration – brilliant idea

optimism – positive attitude

perspiration – sweat

prime – main, most important

restore – to put back; to repair

Foundations for Life is a national program of the Josephson Institute and its CHARACTER COUNTS! project.